

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /047 W

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O R 280902Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 655

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHATRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: PRESS TRIAL DEMONSTRATIONS

1. CATHOLIC DEMONSTRATORS GATHERED IN SMALL GROUPS OF NO MORE THAN 200 EACH AT FIVE SEPARATE CHURCHES LOCATED IN GIA DINH NEAR SAIGON/GIA DINH BORDER. THE GROUP'S INTENT WAS TO COALESCE AT TAN SA CHAU CHURCH AND MARCH INTO SAIGON IN DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING TRIAL OF OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS FOR VIOLATION OF PRESS LAW. AS GROUPS LEFT CHURCH GROUNDS AND ATTEMPTED JOIN TOGETHER, THEY WERE STOPPED BY NATIONAL POLICE BARRICADES. IN EACH CASE, WHEN STOPPED, THEY ENGAGED IN ROCK THROWING AT NATIONAL POLICE. AT ONE POINT, A NATIONAL POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS POST WAS BURNED. A TOTAL OF THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF THE GIA DINH NATIONAL POLICE FORCE WERE REPORTED SUFFERING INJURIES, PRIMARILY FROM ROCK THROWING. BY 1345 HOURS, MOST GROUPS DISPERSED AND REMAINING DEMONSTRATORS CONGREGATED IN VICINITY OF TAN CHI LINH AND TAN SA CHAU CHURCHES.

2. APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY OPPOSITION LAWYERS, FIFTY WITNESSES AND FIFTEEN REPORTERS, BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN, ALLOWED TO ATTEND
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TRIAL WHICH PROCEEDED WITHOUT INCIDENT UNTIL DIEN TIN MANAGING

EDITOR ENTERED AND CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN ROUGHED UP BY POLICE OUTSIDE COURT HOUSE. OPPOSITION LAWYERS THEN LEFT THE COURT IN PROTEST. AFTER TWENTY MINUTE ADJOURNMENT, LAWYERS RETURNED BUT DECISION MADE TO POSTPONE TRIAL UNTIL 20 FEBRUARY 1975.

3. A GROUP OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED DEMONSTRATORS, INCLUDING SOME LOWER HOUSE DEPUTIES AND, REPORTEDLY, OPPOSITIONIST PRIEST PHAN KHAC TU, PROTESTED PEACEFULLY IN FRONT OF THE LOWER HOUSE AT ABOUT 9:30 A.M., AN EVENT WITNESSED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER. PROTESTORS CARRIED SIGNS WHICH CALLED FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, AND ONE DEMONSTRATOR READ A PREPARED STATEMENT. THERE WERE MANY POLICE IN THE AREA, AND THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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